study, in cooperation with the scientific community of the Chesapeake Bay and appropriate other federal agencies, to develop the knowledge base required for understanding multi-species interactions and developing multi-species management plans. To date, fisheries management in Chesapeake Bay and other waters, has been largely based upon single-species plans that often ignore the critical relationships between water and habitat quality, ecosystem health and the food webs that support the Bay's living resources. There is a growing consensus between scientific leaders and managers alike that we must move beyond the single species approach toward a wider, multi-species and ecosystem perspective. Chesapeake 2000 calls for developing multi-species management plans for targeted species by the year 2005 and implementing the plans by 2007. In order to achieve these goals, NOAA must take a leadership role and support a sustained research and monitoring program. The Chesapeake Bay NOAA multi-species plans can, in fact, provide important information to other fisheries programs throughout the United States.

Third, the legislation authorizes NOAA to carry out a small-scale fishery and habitat restoration grant and technical assistance program to help citizens organizations and local governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed undertake habitat, fish and shellfish restoration projects. Experience has shown that, with the proper tools and training, citizens' groups and local communities can play a tremendous role in fisheries and habitat protection and restoration efforts. The new Bay Agreement has identified a critical need to not only expand and promote community-based programs but to restore historic levels of oyster production, restore living resource habitat and submerged aquatic vegetation. The NOAA small-grants program, which this bill would authorize, would complement EPA's Chesapeake Bay small watershed program, and make ''seed'' grants available on a competitive, cost-sharing basis to local governments and non-profit organizations to implement hands-on projects such as improvement of fish passageways, creating artificial or natural reefs, restoring wetlands and sea-grass beds, and producing oysters for restoration projects.

Fourth, the legislation would establish an internet-based Coastal Predictions Center for the Chesapeake Bay. Resource managers and scientists alike agree that we must make better use of the various modeling and monitoring systems and new technologies to improve prediction capabilities and response to physical and chemical events within the Bay and tributary rivers. There are substantial amounts of data collected and compiled by Federal, state and local government agencies and academic institutions including information on weather, tides, currents, circulation, climate, land use, coastal environmental quality, aquatic living resources and habitat conditions. Unfortunately, little of this data is coordinated and organized in a manner that is useful to the wide range of potential users. The Coastal Predictions Center would serve as a knowledge bank for assembling monitoring and modeling data from relevant government agencies and academic institutions, interpreting that data, and organizing it into products that are useful to resource managers, scientists and the public.

Finally, the legislation would increase the authorization for the NOAA Bay Program from the current level of $2.5 million to $6 million per year to enhance current activities and to carry out these new initiatives. For more than a decade, funding for NOAA's Bay Program has remained static at an annual average of $1.9 million. If we are to achieve the ultimate, long-term goal of the Bay Program—protecting, restoring and maintaining the health of the living resources of the Bay—additional financial resources must be provided.

The Chesapeake Bay Program, with the important participation of the NOAA Bay Office, has exhibited leadership utilizing the marine sciences to provide guidance for decision makers in the restoration and protection of this unique natural resource. This bill will not only continue that leadership but will significantly advance the knowledge generated from the additional functions called for in the reauthorization. This bill is supported by a number of Bay organizations and members of the scientific community.

HONORING THE LATE BOB MURDOCH OF TYLER, TX

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize an exceptional individual, Bob Murdoch, of Tyler, TX, who passed away on May 27 of this year at the age of 81. Bob was well-known throughout Smith County and will be remembered for his leadership and tireless dedication to his community.

In 1951 Bob became general manager of the annual East Texas State Fair and held the position of manager from 1953 to 1995. As a tribute to his phenomenal forty-four years of leadership with the Fair, the office building at the fairgrounds was named the Murdoch Building upon his retirement. At his retirement luncheon, it was said of him that he was a ''natural-born leader, dreamer and legend of our time''—a testament to his vision, dedication and commitment to community service.

Bob was a long-time member of the Texas Association of Fairs and Exposition. He served as secretary/treasurer of the Texas Association from 1954 to 1983 and received the Secretary of the Year Award from the national Federation'' of State and Provincial Association of Fairs.

Bob also was a leader in other community organizations. He served as chief executive director of the East Texas Agriculture Council and as executive secretary/treasurer of the East Texas Farm and Ranch Club, which he organized in 1952. He was the farm editor and broadcaster for radio station KTBB in Tyler from 1951 to 1960 and was a columnist and feature writer for the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

A Dallas native, he was born on December 18, 1918. He received a journalism degree from Hardin Simmons University in 1941 and fulfilled his military duties by serving four years in the Signal Corps and Army Air Corps during World War II. After being discharged, he managed Chambers of Commerce in Bowie and Gainsville.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Murdoch of Tyler; two daughters, Janet Tomlin of Tyler and Dianne Cavazos and her husband, Hector, of Humble; one brother, Russell Murdoch of Dallas; one granddaughter, Melissa, and her husband, Scott Eeds, of Whitehouse; two grandsons, Lance and Evan Cavazos of Humble; and one greatgranddaughter, Emily Eeds, of Whitehouse.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Murdoch's contributions to his community will long be remembered—and he will be missed by his family and many friends in Tyler and Smith County. As we adjourn today, may we do so in celebration of this outstanding citizen from the Fourth District of Texas.

MIDWEST CLEAN AIR GASOLINE RESERVE ACT JUNE 29, 2000

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I represent a suburban Chicago district and, as we all know, the Chicago area now faces the highest gas prices in the nation. This is not a distinction of which we are proud or happy.

Today, Governor Ryan of Illinois and the Illinois General Assembly took an important step to provide the residents of Illinois with some relief, and they should be commended for their swift action. In one day, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed a law that suspends the Illinois gas tax for six months. They were forced to take the extraordinary action of sacrificing badly needed road improvement funds in order to give consumers at the pumps an extra ten or twenty cents per gallon relief.

We cannot allow residents of states like Illinois and Wisconsin to confront this situation again in the future. The burden is just too great on individuals and small businesses in the region.

That's why I rise today to announce the introduction of a bill to help prevent future crises involving the price and supply of gasoline in the Midwest.

The Midwest Clean Air Gasoline Reserve Act would give the Secretary of Energy the authority to establish a Midwest reserve of reformulated gasoline or the petroleum products used to make reformulated gasoline. The President would release this stock of reformulated gasoline in the event of a severe energy supply disruption, a severe price increase, or another emergency affecting the Midwest.

We know now that two factors adversely affected the supply of gasoline in the Midwest, causing prices to rise. In addition to pipeline disruptions, Phase 2 of the Reformulated Gasoline—or RFG—program required the inventory of Phase 1 RFG gasoline to be purged from the supply chain. In this case, supply was interrupted at the same time that inventories were depleted. And in the Midwest in particular, sources of reformulated gasoline are few and far between, and difficult to replace when supply is interrupted. As a result, the price of reformulated gasoline spiked.

With a Midwest, Clean Air Gasoline Reserve in his arsenal, the President may have been able to combat this crisis when it presented itself, at least reducing the initial impact on consumers.

This bill will give any President an important tool with which to respond to energy supply